

NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS BULLETIN



VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS OF THE U.S.

KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI

VOLUME 43, NO. 1

AUG. 2018

MAKE IT HAPPEN

MEMBERSHIP:

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR NEW COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF B.J. LAWRENCE!

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE TRIPLE CROWN WINNERS:

The Triple Crown Pin is awarded to those who have achieved All-American Commander at the Department, District and Post level.

Ashley Little - Dept. of Arkansas
John Morrow - Dept. of Delaware
Gerald "Snake" Dugas - Dept. of Louisiana
Donna Barnett - Dept. of Nevada
Shawn Watson - Dept. of Pacific Areas
Edward Torres - Dept. of Texas

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE RECRUITER OF THE YEAR:

Kenneth L. Kraft – Dept. of Oregon. Recruited 500 members.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE ELITE RECRUITERS:

Glenn Hohman – Dept. of Arizona
Glen Telly – Dept. of Florida
Larry Gerlt – Dept. of Nebraska

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE 2017-18 ALL-AMERICANS! Thank you for a great year and a job well done!

POST DEVELOPMENT

As many of you heard in our Commander-in-Chief's acceptance speech, Post Development is very high on his priority list. As you are planning out your year, make sure your Departments are in contact with the National Membership Department to lay out an area in need of post development or a revitalization effort. There are many resources available to you; all you need to do is call. We are looking to start a Post or revitalize an existing Post in every single Department. Let's not wait until the middle of the year to start identifying an area. Let the Membership Department know now what you're working on so they can start tracking that information and provide assistance, as needed.

INSTALLMENT LIFE

Now Post and Department Quartermasters have the option to enroll “NEW” members as installment Life on the Online Membership System. See the Hip Pocket Training for Nov/Dec link. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ixuesaN90Ps&index=16&list=PLS17GMBriUlatKGz_QdpAoUHnXAvaPXi

Note: Once the member is enrolled, the member will receive a confirmation email. They have to click and approve the installment in order for the installment to be completed.

MEMBERSHIP FACEBOOK

Make sure you ‘like’ and ‘share’ our VFW National Membership Facebook page. We post updates, links, contest reminders, events, etc. for you. Share the good news of the VFW: <https://www.facebook.com/VFWmembership/>.

Encourage annual members to take advantage of the Life member installment plan. Encourage Life installment plan and annual members to take advantage of the automatic payment option.

Legacy Life Membership: This prestigious program is available to all Life members and is available in memoriam for past Life members. Three levels of membership each offer their own package of exclusive member benefits. Financial contributions to the Legacy Life member program are tax deductible to the maximum extent allowed by law.

Enrollment Cost:

Annual Payouts:

| <u>Levels</u> | <u>Posts</u> | <u>Departments</u> | <u>National</u> |
|------------------|--------------|--------------------|-----------------|
| Gold- \$1,200.00 | \$18.00 | \$18.00 | \$18.00 |
| Silver- \$800.00 | \$12.00 | \$12.00 | \$12.00 |
| Bronze- \$400.00 | \$6.00 | \$6.00 | \$6.00 |

What will your Legacy be?

ADDITIONAL REMINDERS & CHANGES

The **2018-19 Membership Program** is available online at www.vfw.org, under MY VFW, scroll down to Member Resources and click on the VFW Training and Support, click on Membership Recruiting and Retention, where it will be in blue letters - 2018-19 VFW National Membership Program.

Digital Membership Cards: Members now have the ability to download their digital version of their membership card. Depending on whether a member has an iPhone or Android, they will be able to download and access their digital membership card from the VFW app.

This will not replace the physical VFW membership card - we will still be sending out membership cards to all our annual and Life members. This is intended as another option for our members' convenience. When asked to show a VFW membership card, a member can either produce their physical card out of their wallet or display their digital card on their smart phone.

V-mail: Go online to <http://www.vfw.com> to stay in communication with other Posts as well as with National Headquarters. Check in often for important VFW updates and news from national. The VFW Membership Department will be using this avenue for communication more regularly. If you need assistance logging in or your password, contact Leticia Cortez in the Membership Department at 816-756-3390, ext. 6292.

Hip Pocket Training: Login and go online to <https://www.vfw.org/my-vfw/vfw-training-and-support/membership-recruiting-and-retention> to view the latest training videos from the Membership Department. If you have any questions or topics you would like covered, please email them to membership@vfw.org in advance and we will cover them on the next training video. We also post these webinars on our Facebook page! If you're not on Facebook, you can still view the webinars on YouTube here: https://youtu.be/z_5MovJgD6E?list=PLS17GMBRjUlatKGz_QdpAoUHnXAvaPXi-.

VETERANS & MILITARY SUPPORT PROGRAMS:

For all Veterans & Military Support program information and forms, login to the VFW website under the "General Member Tools & Resources" section, click VFW Training and Support, then click on "Veterans & Military Support."

Thanks to all of you who stopped by our booth, participated in the service challenge and our workshop during the 119th National Convention in Kansas City, Missouri!

"BUDDY"® POPPY:

NATIONAL END OF THE YEAR AWARDS. The 2017-18 Buddy Poppy year has come to a close and we would like to extend a sincere thank you to everyone that participated in this amazing program. Once again, with all of your help and hard work, we have completed another successful campaign. Please do not forget about the July deadlines for the entry forms you received in April. Once we have received the Department nominations and can compile our annual data, we will start processing the end of year awards (shortly after National Convention). As we complete the citations and plaques, they will be sent directly to the Department Headquarters so they can find the appropriate time to present them.

The 119th National Convention "Buddy"® Poppy Display Contest Winners are:

CATEGORY 1 (Public Promotion of Poppy Campaign)

- | | |
|-------------------|---|
| First Place | - VFW Auxiliary to the James G. Lee Post No. 1685 Anchorage, Alaska |
| Second Place | - VFW Auxiliary to the John Carnine-James Wiseman Post No. 3280 Clovis, New Mexico |
| Third Place | - Hometown Murray Post No. 9773 and its VFW Auxiliary Hometown, Illinois |
| Honorable Mention | - General Dwight D. Eisenhower Post No. 3279 and its VFW Auxiliary Abilene, Kansas |
| Directors Award | - Hershel "Woody" William Post No. 7048 Fairmont, West Virginia |

CATEGORY 2 (Memorial or Inspirational Displays)

- | | |
|--------------|--|
| First Place | - Wichita Memorial Post No. 3115 and its VFW Auxiliary Wichita, Kansas |
| Second Place | - VFW Auxiliary to the Ernest K. Gerhardt Post No. 5923 Camdenton, Missouri |

Third Place - VFW Auxiliary to the Sensing Brothers Post No. 4641
Dixon, Tennessee

Honorable Mention - Gandy-Brown Post No. 4588 and its VFW Auxiliary
Bossier City, Louisiana

CATEGORY 3 (Artistic or Decorative Use of Poppies)

First Place - Simi Valley Post No. 10049 and its VFW Auxiliary
Simi Valley, California

Second Place - Cheyenne Mountain Post 3917 and its VFW Auxiliary
Security, Colorado

Third Place - VFW Auxiliary to the Francis Cannon Post No. 7589
Manassas, Virginia

Honorable Mention - VFW Auxiliary to the Fort Butler Post No. 826
Kingwood, West Virginia

VETERANS DAY “BUDDY”® POPPY CAMPAIGN. Plans should be under way for the Veterans Day “Buddy”® Poppy Campaign. Contact your Department Quartermaster to place your order for “Buddy”® Poppies. Remember that your poppies should be ordered a minimum of 6 to 8 weeks in advance of your distribution date. Be sure to specify a date by which the poppies are required, do not use “ASAP.” Miscellaneous items (coin cans, caps, buttons, posters, etc.) should be ordered directly from the VFW Store at <https://www.vfwstore.org/category/programs/buddypoppy> or the VFW Store/Emblem and Supply Catalog.

Although we emphasize “Buddy”® Poppies on Veterans Day and Memorial Day, it is important to realize that the distribution of “Buddy”® Poppies should be a year-round exercise. Each time a Post participates in an activity where the public will be present, “Buddy”® Poppies should be present as a fundraising tool and simply to recognize our fallen comrades. Where the VFW appears, “Buddy”® Poppies should be a constant reminder that we will never forget those who have perished in the name of liberty. Just as “They Gave, Will You?” is a year-round thing, so should the distribution of VFW “Buddy”® Poppies.

The Manual of Procedure provides that post relief funds may be used for programs such as Voice of Democracy, Patriot’s Pen, Citizenship Education, and Community Service as long as suggestions in the chairmen guidebooks are used as an example of promoting these programs.

Posts are further reminded that Section 711 of the Manual of Procedure provides that non-profit organizations, exempt from taxes under Section 501(a) of the Internal Revenue Code, may assist with the distribution of “Buddy”® Poppies, provided there shall be no division of proceeds. A donation to these groups may be made from the post general fund.

Contact information: BuddyPoppy@vfw.org or (816) 756-3390, ext. 6722 for any questions or concerns.

VFW SILVER, GOLD AND DIAMOND ANNIVERSARY POPPIES. The silver, gold and diamond anniversary “Buddy”® Poppies are only for Posts that are currently in their 25th, 50th, 75th or 100th anniversary years. The anniversary poppies are approximately three times as expensive for us to produce, but because of the small quantities we deal in, we don’t pass those costs on to the Posts. Please limit your order of anniversary poppies to 1,000 to ensure stock does not run out.

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS JOINS "WORLD WAR ONE POPPY PROGRAM." The Veterans of Foreign Wars is joining the U.S. World War One Centennial Commission in announcing the WWI Poppy Program to raise awareness about World War I and generate funds for local VSO chapters all over the country.

The VFW is proud to share with you the WWI Poppy Program; an opportunity to generate resources for your Post while helping to honor the 4.7 million Americans who wore the uniform during WWI.

Poppies grew across the war-torn battlefields of Europe after World War I. From 2017 to 2019, the U.S. World War One Centennial Commission will tell the story of those American veterans, through events, exhibits, and memorial efforts, and the VFW is proud to be a partner in this important commemoration.

Click on the following link to learn about the WWI Poppy Program and how your purchase of a Poppy Kit helps build the new National World War One Memorial in Washington, D.C., while also helping to raise money for your Post.

Link: ww1cc.org/poppy

Here is a quick video that can help people understand why it is so important that we honor those who served during World War I: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l_y4l49mZso.

The red poppy is an internationally recognized symbol of veteran remembrance. Its use began in World War I and was captured in the war poem "In Flanders Fields," by Lt. Col. John McCrae.

NATIONAL LEGISLATIVE SERVICE/ACTION CORPS:

August Recess – Do Your Members of Congress Know Our Legislative Priorities?

Congress is in recess for the month of August, which means your congressional members will be back in their home states. This is a good opportunity for VFW members to contact and visit their district/state offices, or participate in their town hall meetings, and focus attention on the VFW's [legislative priorities](#). Familiarize yourself with the VFW's stance on topics including transition, health care, sequestration, and concurrent receipt. Make sure your [senators](#) and [representatives](#) know what they need to do to meet the needs of our service members, veterans, and their families. Help us hold Congress accountable to the VFW's legislative priorities!

VFW FOUNDATION:

VFW FOUNDATION RECEIVES PRESTIGIOUS CHARITY RATING

The VFW Foundation is proud to announce that we have received the prestigious "Four Star Rating" from the influential nonprofit watchdog group, Charity Navigator. This award (Charity Navigator's highest ranking) is reserved *only* for America's best charities that exemplify transparency, financial health and donor accountability. "Considering that there are approximately 1.5 million U.S. charities, it is a real honor that the VFW Foundation is one of a very select group of 3,290 nonprofits so ranked by Charity Navigator," said the VFW Foundation Administrator Richard Potter.

SPECIAL OFFER FROM HENRY REPEATING ARMS

Now through December 31, 2018, purchase any Henry firearm from an authorized Henry dealer and you are eligible for a \$25 gift certificate good for any purchase at the VFW Store.

Visit www.vfw.org/henry, complete the online form (including VFW/Auxiliary member number, name, and contact information), and upload a photo or scanned copy of the receipt for your Henry firearm

purchase. Your VFW Store gift certificate will be sent to you via the US Postal Service within 10 business days of submitting the completed form.

To find an authorized Henry Repeating Arms dealer near you, visit www.henryusa.com/store-locator/.

BURGER KING UNMET NEEDS JULY 2018 CAMPAIGN

For the 5th consecutive year, selective Burger King (BK) franchisee owned restaurants raised funds for the VFW's Unmet Needs program during all or parts of July 2018. This year there were [450+ participating restaurants](#) where customers donated \$1 or more to the program upon checkout.

As of this writing, July 2018 donation totals are not yet available, though an update will be included in the September issue of HQ Bulletin.

Since 2007, BK restaurants have contributed more than \$5 million to the VFW Unmet Needs program, which has provided more than \$10 million in aid to more than 9,000 struggling veterans and military families since its inception in 2004.

VFW LOGO INCLUDED IN BURGER KING TV COMMERCIAL

Due to our close relationship with Burger King franchisee owners who fundraise for Unmet Needs, the VFW's logo was inserted into a combined Burger King--Budweiser American Brewhouse King television commercial which aired nationally over the Fourth of July Independence holiday. The commercial featured actual veterans and highlighted the important contributions of service personnel and their families to our nation. To watch the commercial, visit:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=F3xakX4LEZw>.

DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT:

VFW Manicure Kit – In mid-July, we mailed out the newly popular VFW Manicure Kit as a special thank you for your support of the VFW and the life-changing programs for all veterans. We hope it has arrived and that you find it useful. As you use this special gift, let it serve as a reminder of all the veterans your past support has helped. Your continued support gives wounded veterans hope in the face of tragedy – those coping with Post-Traumatic Stress, Traumatic Brain Injury and other horrible war wounds that will affect them for the rest of their lives. When you receive your VFW Manicure Kit, please be as generous as possible. Your donation helps veterans of every generation. Military members, veterans and their families from your Department are counting on you! And please, remember to display the United States flag, especially on patriotic holidays.

Sign Your Name, Change Your Future – VFW members like you frequently tell us, “I wish I could do more.” Learn ways you can impact future generations of veterans, just by signing your name – and with gifts that cost you nothing now. Call the VFW Planned Giving Office at (816) 968-1119, email plannedgiving@vfw.org or visit www.vfw.org/plannedgiving.

Have You Heard About the VFW's Partners in Patriotism? – Would you like to support the VFW's life-changing programs for veterans, service members and their families and reduce the amount of mail you receive? The VFW has an option that allows you to support VFW programs on a monthly, quarterly, or yearly basis, as well as reduce expenses and eliminate the fundraising mail. It is called Partners in Patriotism. As a member of Partners in Patriotism, you choose a set dollar amount for your donation (minimum amount of \$10) that is either charged to your credit card or set up as an Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT) from your bank account. Once you join the VFW's Partners in Patriotism, you will only receive the Quarterly Supporter newsletters to keep you informed of the many efforts your monthly gifts are making possible. If you are interested in joining Partners in Patriotism, you may

contact Donor Services in the VFW Development Department at 1-833-VFW-GIVE (1-833-839-4483) or email us at partners@vfw.org with “Partners in Patriotism Application” in the subject line.

VFW Friends of Freedom – If you are not already a member of the VFW’s online community, please visit www.vfw.org and look for the gold banner that says “Find Out What’s Happening” to sign up. As a member of the VFW’s Friends of Freedom, you will receive special emails with breaking VFW news, legislative alerts and unique opportunities to help the VFW in assisting our nation’s veterans, service members and their families. You may also visit www.vfw.org/vfwatwork and click on “**Read VFW success stories**” to learn how the VFW is fighting for veterans’ rights, assisting veterans in need, educating our youth and aiding military families across the nation. Check back often to see newly posted stories!

Department Resources – Many great resources are available for your Department to use in promoting fundraising programs. You need only go to heroes.vfw.org/vfwtools. The latest fundraising program information, ideas and promotional tools from the Development Department can be found here. Download ad slicks, ready-to-use articles and other items for your Department publications and/or website. Recent mailings and mailing schedules are also posted on a regular basis. Use the Department Resources tools to help strengthen your Department programs. Check it out today!

MEMBER BENEFITS:

The Inside Rx card is a free, easy-to-download card that provides:

- Discounted prices on generic medications with an average savings of nearly 80% off retail* and average savings of 40%* on more than 125 brand-name medications.
- Easy access to downloadable card at www.INSIDERX.com/VFW that can be used in more than 40,000 participating pharmacies in the U.S.
- Discounts on select medications commonly prescribed for pets, with an average savings of 75% off generics and up to 15% off brand medications*.
- The Inside Rx card can also offer more affordable access to prescription medications often not covered through health insurance such as dermatology and lifestyle drugs.

Restrictions apply, so visit INSIDERX.com/VFW to get more information. Encourage members to take advantage of the Inside Rx savings program and share it with their friends and family. If you would like savings cards for your Post, please reach out to questions@insidrx.com.

* Average savings rates are based on savings for over 50% of eligible Inside Rx users, based on cash price versus Inside Rx price for featured brand medications. Card cannot be used by persons eligible for state or federal-funded programs such as Medicare, Medicaid or Tricare for purchase of Inside Rx featured medications (see INSIDERX.com for listing), even if processed outside the benefit. Must be under 65 to use the card to purchase Advair® Diskus®, Advair® HFA, Anoro® Ellipta®, Arnuity® Ellipta®, Breo® Ellipta®, Incruse® Ellipta®, Flovent® Diskus®, Flovent® HFA. Card cannot be used with any insurance benefit or copay assistance programs. Visit INSIDERX.com for full details and use terms. Inside Rx card is not insurance.

PROGRAMS:

DISPLAYING MILITARY SERVICE SYMBOLS. Military service flags, insignias, etc., should be displayed in the following order (left to right as you face the flags): Army, Marine Corps, Navy, Air Force and then Coast Guard. For military flags, go to <http://www.vfwstore.org/products/GP238>.

WORLD WAR I COMMISSION PARTNERSHIP. Any municipal government, individual, or organization may apply. Likewise, any individual, organization or company can become a sponsor of

this effort, as the more we can raise toward this program, the greater the amount of the matching grant to the winning memorials.

<http://www.worldwar1centennial.org/index.php/about-the-program.html>

The VFW role is to help publicize the program and get local Posts (and Auxiliaries) involved.

A sample project is at: <http://www.worldwar1centennial.org/index.php/resources.html#project-profiles>. (See the Ocean Springs video.)

A fun starting point is to first find memorials around the country. Information on this is at <http://www.worldwar1centennial.org/index.php/memorial-hunters-club-about.html>. Scouting groups and 4-H Clubs can also get involved.

- As you know, 2018 marks the centennial of World War 1. There is a lot our members can do to help educate the public, commemorate the war, and honor those who served. The World War One Centennial Commission has created a landing page on their website for veterans to simplify navigation to key areas. You'll find it at www.wwlcc.org/veterans. Here are a few suggestions:

-- **THE WORLD WAR ONE PODCAST** is an award winner! Subscribe here: www.wwlcc.org/cn and become the envy of your friends and colleagues with your knowledge about all matters related to the Great War! Subscribe to the **Dispatch** newsletter to keep up to date. Listen to the Centennial News **Podcasts**. Podcast #61 features VFW Post 968 in Raymond, WA, talking about their 100 Cities/100 Memorial project.

--Take advantage of the vast store of **education materials**, and use any meeting opportunity in your community to discuss the war and kindle interest in all matters related to the "War that Changed the World."

--**Purchase a commemorative US Mint WW1 coin** (\$10 from the sale of each coin funds the memorial).

-- **POPPY SEED PACKETS & PROGRAM.**

--The poppy as a symbol of remembrance was first proposed after the war by an American woman, Moina Michael, who wrote "*We shall keep the faith.*"

--Use the WW1 poppy program to raise money for your organization and help us build the National Memorial! Flanders poppies are living symbols of the great sacrifice made by the doughboys, marines and sailors. They grow everywhere! Remember the Great War by planting poppies in your community. Go here and learn more:

<https://www.worldwar1centennial.org/1881>.

--Make sure your ancestors or family members who served are listed on the **World War 1 Roll of Honor** and donate in their names toward building the WW1 National Memorial with a "digital" remembrance wreath. The Roll of Honor features individual profiles for many of the more than 4 million American service members who responded to the call of "Over There" in support of the war-weary Allies and helped achieve victory. All donations go directly toward funding the memorial.

MEMORIAL HUNTERS -- WE NEED YOUR HELP. Dust off your Indiana Jones outfit - grab your smartphone/camera and get ready to hunt for treasure!

--Beginning 100 years ago at the end of WWI, thousands of local memorials were erected in honor of those who served. The memorials were put up by towns, cities, veterans' organizations, schools, churches, civic organizations and clubs. Today, there is no national register of these important and long forgotten American cultural and historical treasures.

- Join the Memorial Hunters Club and help us hunt down and catalog this fading national treasure.
- We have already had huge help from the state Centennial teams, especially those in Alabama, Georgia and New Jersey who have cataloged hundreds of WWI memorials for their states.
- When you find some of these gems in your state, go here to register:
<https://www.worldwar1centennial.org/memorial-hunters-club-about.html>.
- Get your [anthropology](#) on...It's time to go treasure hunting!
- Raise money for the Memorial by supporting the **WW1 Poppy Program**.
- **Learn more** about the memorial and see all the resources available at www.ww1cc.org.

For any follow-up questions, please contact Lynn Rolf, Programs Director, at lrolf@vfw.org or (816) 968-1116.

WORLD WAR ONE CENTENNIAL NEWS:

WAS YOUR POST NAMED AFTER A WORLD WAR ONE VETERAN OR VETERANS? WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU! The U.S. World War One Centennial Commission (WW1CC) is seeking information about VFW Posts named in honor of a local or national World War I veteran, along with stories of his or her service, photographs, newspaper clippings and/or other historical information. WW1CC will endeavor to honor these Posts by showcasing this special information on its website and feature highlights in its electronic *Dispatch* newsletter. Please note: any information received will be maintained by the commission and will become part of the U.S. Government's historical (Library of Congress) records/archives upon the expiry of its mandate. The point of contact is David W. Hamon, VSO/Military Director for the commission, at david.hamon@worldwar1centennial.org and/or (540) 379-8584.

WW1CC has also created a special landing page for veterans, history lovers, family members, friends and community members. At ww1cc.org/veterans, visitors will find "tiles," easy to access and read, in order to educate, commemorate and honor the Great War, as per the commission's congressional mandate and charter.

BELLS FOR PEACE. On November 11 at 11:00 a.m. local time...Americans everywhere and across the nation will toll bells in remembrance of those who served and those who sacrificed in the war that changed the world...

- Pledge to Participate (once you PLEDGE, we will send you updates and notices).
- Recruit others including organizations to pledge with you.
- Find out more and see the special landing page here for information and RESOURCES!
www.ww1cc.org/bells

50TH ANNIVERSARY VIETNAM WAR COMMEMORATION PROGRAM. The Commemorative Partner Program is designed for federal, state and local communities, veterans' organizations and other non-governmental organizations to assist a grateful nation in thanking and honoring our Vietnam veterans and their families. As a Commemorative Partner, VFW Posts are encouraged to participate in the Commemoration of the Vietnam War by planning and conducting events and activities that will recognize the Vietnam veterans and their families' service, valor, and sacrifice.

Events and activities should be dignified, memorable occasions that show a sensitivity and appreciation for the solemnity of war and the losses suffered by many. Commemorative Partners should communicate how their events will achieve the congressionally-mandated objectives of the program. Events or activities should meet one or more of the following objectives.

1. To thank and honor veterans of the Vietnam War, including personnel who were held as prisoners of war or listed as missing in action, for their service and sacrifice on behalf of the United States and to thank and honor the families of these veterans.
2. To highlight the service of the Armed Forces during the Vietnam War and the contributions of Federal agencies and governmental and non-governmental organizations that served with, or in support of, the Armed Forces.
3. To pay tribute to the contributions made on the home front by the people of the United States during the Vietnam War.
4. To highlight the advances in technology, science, and medicine related to military research conducted during the Vietnam War.
5. To recognize the contributions and sacrifices made by the allies of the United States during the Vietnam War.

For VFW Posts interested in becoming an official Commemorative Partner, they must submit an application and a signed Statement of Understanding.

Applications are available at www.VietnamWar50th.com on the Commemorative Partner Program. The approval process is usually less than 30 days. Partners will be kept informed through electronic notifications. Once approved as a Partner, the Commemoration will provide organizations with a starter kit of materials for developing and implementing their programs. If you have any questions regarding the Commemorative Partner Program application process, please direct them to: whs.vnwar50th_cpp@mail.mil. For Vietnam War commemorative items, shop the VFW Store at <http://www.vfwstore.org/searchresults?q=vietnam>.

PATRIOT DAY, SEPTEMBER 11. Per Presidential Proclamation, September 11, is designated as "Patriot Day." The President requests the flag of the United States to be flown at half-staff (sunrise to sunset) and a moment of silence observed in honor of the individuals who lost their lives on that day due to terrorist attacks on the United States. For flags and other patriotic items, click here <http://www.vfwstore.org/category/patriotic/miscpatriotic>.

NATIONAL POW/MIA RECOGNITION DAY, SEPTEMBER 21. Posts should conduct an appropriate ceremony. Information on conducting a ceremony can be found in the current VFW Manual of Procedure. For POW/MIA merchandise, click <http://www.vfwstore.org/category/memorial/pow-mia>.

VOICE OF DEMOCRACY AND PATRIOT'S PEN NATIONAL AWARDS. Every Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen first place Department winner will receive a National scholarship or award. The new amount for the Voice of Democracy National Awards now total \$155,500 and the Patriot's Pen National Awards total is now \$55,000.

NEW SMART/MAHER VFW NATIONAL CITIZENSHIP EDUCATION TEACHER AWARD DEADLINE DATES. The VFW wants to recognize the nation's top elementary, junior high and high school teachers (teaching at least half of the school day in a classroom environment) who teach citizenship education topics regularly and promote America's history, traditions and institutions effectively through the Smart/Maher VFW National Citizenship Education Teacher Award program. Now is the time to begin locating exceptional teachers for your Post to nominate for the next competition. Nominations can be submitted by fellow teachers, VFW Posts, supervisors or other interested individuals (not relatives). Self-nominees are not eligible.

VFW's National Citizenship Education Teacher awards include: three national \$1,000 awards for the top K-5, 6-8, and 9-12 teachers for professional development expenses; \$1,000 award to each winning teacher's school; plaques for both the winning teacher and school; and an all-expenses-paid trip to attend a VFW National Convention.

Please verify that all websites, publications, announcements, etc. has the correct teacher award entry deadlines for the 2018-19 program year. The dates are October 31, 2018, for entries to the Post, November 15, 2018, for completion of Post judging, December 15, 2018, for completion of District judging, January 10, 2019, for completion of Department judging and the Department winners are due to National Headquarters by January 15, 2019. The entry forms are up on the VFW website and are available in the VFW Store.

Simply visit <https://www.vfw.org/#login>, log in to My VFW, then look under Member Resources, click on **VFW Training & Support**, then click on **Community Service & Youth Programs**, then look under **Additional Resources**. Here you will find all program manuals, and on the same page are all other program materials.

Additionally, the interested individuals may download and print the teacher award entry form by visiting this link: www.vfw.org/teacheroftheyear or order a quantity of the brochures (item #4450) through the VFW Store <http://www.vfwstore.org/products/22917>.

Order the Citizenship Education Teacher Recognition Citation from the VFW Store, product #4320, <http://www.vfwstore.org/products/23980>. Present to all teachers nominated at all levels for the national award.

VFW NATIONAL PUBLIC SERVANT AWARDS. Departments are asked to submit three nominees (one for each career area) to the VFW Programs Office no later than February 1, 2019. VFW Programs will create citations for the following awards in each Department:

- VFW National Law Enforcement Award
- VFW National Firefighter Award
- VFW National Emergency Medical Technician Award

Each Department will receive their three awards and contact their recipients to arrange a presentation. Department Commanders may present the awards at their Department Convention, but are encouraged to also present the award in front of the recipient's peers at a professional association event, city council meeting, etc. The purpose of the second venue is to expose these VFW awards to the general public and especially other law enforcement personnel, firefighters and EMT's, many of whom are veterans eligible for VFW membership.

COMMUNITY SERVICE REPORTING. All VFW Post and Auxiliary chairmen will report to their respective Department chairman in a timely fashion so as to allow the Department chairman to report to the VFW National Programs office by May 31. The VFW Post chairmen's report should include whether or not their Auxiliaries participated.

POW/MIA FLAG – OFFICIAL DISPLAY DAYS. Public Law 105-85 (November 16, 1997) indicates the days that federal agencies, military installations and U.S. post offices are required to display the POW/MIA flag. The days are: Armed Forces Day, May 18, 2019 (third Saturday in May); Memorial Day, May 27, 2019 (last Monday in May); Flag Day, June 14; Independence Day, July 4; National POW/MIA Day, September 21, 2018 (third Friday in September); and Veterans Day, November 11. To purchase a POW/MIA flag, go to <http://www.vfwstore.org/products/GP237>.

IRS AND VFW AWARD MONIES. The Internal Revenue Service (IRS) requires that any recipient that receives more than a \$599 award should receive a Form 1099 identifying the proceeds as taxable. This will include the VFW programs Patriot's Pen and Smart/Maher VFW National Citizenship Education Teacher Award.

VFW STORE:

Check out VFW Store's new items: Ball caps, apparel, jewelry and more! Go to <http://www.vfwstore.org/category/more/newitems> to browse or look for your new catalog in the mail!

Congratulations to All-American Posts, Districts and Departments! To help you celebrate your success, VFW Store is proud to offer All-American custom apparel. To find out more, call Kim Winston at 816-968-1181 or email her at kwinston@vfw.org. To place an order for ball caps, name tags, pins or rings, call 1-833-VFW-VETS or go to <http://www.vfwstore.org/searchresults?q=all-american>.



ROLL CALL OF DEPARTED COMRADES:

RATHBURN, JAMES R., Junior Vice Commander, Department of Alabama, 2018-2019 and a Gold Legacy Life Member of John Wiley Brock Post 6683, Enterprise, Alabama, July 26, 2018.

PHIPPS, LAUREL E., Commander, Department of Iowa, 1996-1997 and a Life Member of Harry C. Harter Post 839, Marshalltown, Iowa, July 28, 2018.